



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Only days left to nominate inspirational women in business

CALLING all women in business – it's your chance to stand up and get the recognition you and fellow colleagues deserve through nominating yourself, a friend, co-worker, client or supplier in the Bendigo Bank North Queensland Business Women Awards 2010-2011.

The annual business women's awards are in their 15th year after being started by the Townsville Business Women's Network (TBWN) in 1995. TBWN president Penelope-Ann Sullivan said this year's event had grown to include an exciting new overall category – the Bendigo Bank Townsville Business Woman of the Year – and would coincide with the 100th-year anniversary of International Women's Day.

"The Bendigo Bank North Queensland Business Women Awards for 2010-2011 has special significance with the gala presentation evening of the awards being moved to coincide with the 100th-year celebrations of International Women's Day in March 2011," Ms Sullivan said.

"This will be an exciting period of celebrations for business, career and working women and an ideal time to make North Queensland people aware of the inspirational role models we have here on our doorsteps."

Ms Sullivan said the awards aimed to recognise women who were making a "real difference" either in their own businesses or in the corporate arena and the calibre of entrants and winners from last year highlighted what talent existed in the local community, which sometimes went unrecognised.

"Most women just do the jobs they are doing and say 'I don't do anything special', but they do – especially when you add juggling family pressures into the mix," Ms Sullivan said.

"Plus young women need role models and it's a great way to show them it is possible to go down this pathway and succeed in the corporate world or in your own business, no matter what field you're in."

Last year's winners include Carolyn McManus who owns several Coffee Club franchises in Townsville, St James Retirement Village manager Narelle Mackaway, Entropy toy store director Deborah Latouf, The Coloured House interior design studio co-owner Anne Sanker, Marketing Factory director Marissa Candy and Madonna Simmons, then at Townsville Airport, for her contribution to community leadership.

Mrs Sanker took out the North Queensland Female Business Partner Award for the extensive role she plays in running The Coloured House in Garbutt and encouraged fellow women in business to put their hands up as being involved last year benefitted her both personally and professionally.

"It was a great honour to be awarded Business Partner of the Year – a lot of the time it is all hard work and not a lot of thinking about what you have achieved and how far down the success road you have



travelled. These awards allow you to reflect on those achievements and look inside your business to measure your performance,” Mrs Sanker said. “It is great recognition too of the many talented female business people we have in our community and celebrating just how far women have come in business.”

The Bendigo Bank North Queensland Business Woman of the Year will be selected from the category winners of North Queensland Female Business Owner Award, Corporate Business Woman Award, Female Business Partner Award and Emerging Business Woman. In addition to these accolades, there will also be two judges’ awards – the Alison Wenck Community Leadership Award and the Encouragement Award.

Nominations for this year’s awards close on **Friday, October 29**.

The awards are open to women in business who live within a 130km radius of Townsville, north to Lucinda, west to Charters Towers and south to Home Hill.

The awards and a Gala Ball will be held on March 5, 2011 with a Meet the Finalists event five weeks prior on January 28, 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Penelope-Ann Sullivan, TBWN President, (07) 4721 1998, 0427 961 415,
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Anne Sanker image caption: Anne Sanker benefitted personally and professionally from last year’s business women’s awards.

Group awards shot image caption: (Left to right) Last year’s business women’s award winners Narelle Mackaway, award sponsor Bendigo Bank representative Libby Gleeson, Deborah Latouf, Carolyn McManus, Marissa Candy, Anne Sanker and Madonna Simmons.